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GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Analyst Report
August 19, 1943

PROGRESS REPORT ON SEGREGATION

The final figures for segregation are not yet available, but returns are sufficiently complete to give a clear picture of what is happening. To date, 884 fall into group I, 913 into group II, a total of 1797, so that the project will lose nearly 15% of the total population.

There are several causes for this relatively large number choosing segregation, and the causes vary in importance in different age-groups, and culture-groups. Therefore, it is useful to discuss each group separately. It should be realized that this distinction is not absolute, there being many marginal individuals. It should also be noted that this discussion concerns only a minority, although a large one.

I. The Issei who have applied for repatriation are not moved primarily by abstract ideas of loyalty to national groups, but by more intimate and limited loyalties to family groups. These loyalties are to the generations above and below them.

A number are repatriations out of consideration for their parents. This applies particularly to eldest sons; they have definite obligations to their parents and really wish to return to Japan as soon as possible to care for them. While this group is a minority within a minority, it is probably large enough to be noted.

Property consideration may be paramount; but these, in turn are related to the familial tie. The property is in Japan possibly because of inheritance in some cases, but more often because money has been sent home to parents systematically, over a period of years, and provision for parents, for old age, and for the future of children is thereby bound up with Japan.

Fear of relocation is, in other cases, the most significant deciding factor. Tule Lake provides sanctuary for

the duration of the war at least. As this concerns some members of all age groups it is discussed in more detail further on in this report.

II. The Kibei are sometimes influenced as are their elders. But other factors enter, or seem to enter. Many are definitely influenced by ideas of national loyalty. Whether they applied for expatriation, or merely answered No to question 28, a certain number of them did so as a definite move in the direction of Japan.

Whether this group was originally large or small (and I have, so far, hit upon no way to find that out) it has been very greatly increased in number by the history of evacuation, movement to relocation centers, the added bitterness of registration and the resentments arising from the limitations of life in the centers. Questioning sometimes brings out illuminating answers. "We are not wanted here." "In Japan we shall at least not be subjected to racial discrimination." "If we don't leave, we will be kicked out." Pronouncements by such organizations as the Native Sons of the Golden West, threats of deprivation of citizenship, threats of deportation all intensify or at least maintain the fears and resentments which have developed in the last eighteen months. These facts are obvious to all; I merely mention them because they were amply confirmed by many interviews, official and otherwise, in the last three weeks.

Some Kibei who are not so profoundly influenced by such emotions are victims of the same fears as their elders. They fear relocation, economically and socially. While these fears are shared by other Nisei, they are frequently greater among the Kibei. The language handicap, the feeling of belonging to, or being ascribed to an alien culture make them particularly subject to such apprehensions.

As in the case of the Issei, some Kibei are influenced primarily by family loyalties, and the location of the family property.

III. The Nisei may be divided into two groups, or at least be described by their relative nearness to one of two extremes. Some are "brought up as Kibei" (informant's remark). At the other extreme are many who, culturally, are as completely American as any member of a second generation immigrant group can be. The majority probably

stand somewhere between these two extremes.

Of the Kibei-like Nisei, one can make much the same observations as one makes on the real Kibei. The Nisei are, in some respects, in a different position.

There are, first, those who have chosen expatriation to Japan in bitterness or grief, or both because of evacuation and its attendant distresses of mind and body. I have interviewed a number of them. Some are relatively silent in their resentment or make some brief remark about "loss of constitutional rights", "race prejudice" or words to that effect. A few are more explicit. One, being interviewed by a Review Board said he wished to make a formal statement: "I am asking for repatriation because of evacuation and internment, and because of the race discrimination which has been directed against us."

As among Issei and Kibei, some Nisei are motivated primarily by family considerations. The solidarity of the family is more important to them than is national loyalty.

Again some Nisei fear forced relocation. Boys of 18 have given the answer No so that they will be sheltered, for the duration of the war at least.

Finally there are some who persist in the answer No as a protest. Some of them are the most completely Americanized. They feel it a matter of principle. They said No as a protest and they will not withdraw the protest.

IV. These motives are intermixed. Fear of relocation is affected by the reaction to race discrimination; declaration of loyalty to Japan may be related to both; and all motives may exist within the same individual. Nevertheless, it may be useful to classify the motives, with a view to the future. Among the majority who are not to be segregated, there are many still influenced to some degree by the same motives; some may be changed by modifications of governmental policy and some may not. Resentments arising from evacuation, fear of race prejudice, some (though not all) family considerations are relatively unchangeable. Fear of forced relocation may be changed. Therefore a further study of that fear is worth while.

The elder Issei fear relocation for economic and social reasons. They doubt their ability to adopt themselves to a new occupation, or to an old occupation in a new environment.

This is particularly true of the farmers. Many have lost much of their capital and doubt their ability to be able to make enough to support a growing family. To be a farm laborer is not enough; they must be farmers, no matter on how small a scale.

They also fear a new community. They hesitate to cut themselves off from other Japanese or Japanese-Americans. There is, at least among many, a sense of social solidarity with their own kind. To be resettled as the only Japanese family within reach deprives them of mutual help and a sense of security.

Their own proposals illuminate their attitudes. They think it impossible to resettle without Government assistance. They propose a Government loan, to be advanced to individuals, heads of families, who would resettle in small groups, making a number of Japanese in Japanese American communities throughout the country. This proposal has been brought up by many people. There are variations. Some want the loan to be a gift; others and indefinitely long-term loan; still others, a loan which is to be repaid by a definite date. But they all indicate the same thing; fear of being forced to relocate without the means of re-establishing themselves in the only occupation they know, strangers in an alien community.

There are rumors that the Gila River Project is to be closed. There are rumors of other means being used to force relocation. Reduction in internal employment has caused uneasiness. It is believed by some to be a definite attempt to drive them out. Instead, it has sent some to Tule Lake and has caused others to report to various devices to postpone the evil day. These rumors and beliefs persist in spite of many official denials.

Fears of relocation are much less among the Nisei. Many plan to relocate, either definitely, or at some indefinite date in the future. But there are some who still fear the "outside". The reports they get convince them that the policy of relocation is only partially successful. There have been sufficient evidences of race prejudice to cause some apprehension. Apparently, also, there is a belief that they will get the worst and lowest paid jobs. In brief, the fears, the rumors and the policies which sent some to Tule Lake will still be operative, to some degree, within the Project.

V. An attempt was made to discover community reactions to segregation. The report of Mr. Seichi Oguchi,

Research Assistant, is appended. Summarized, it may be said the Issei think it unnecessary, because those to be segregated are doing no harm here. The Nisei, more in touch with public opinion, think it may help those not segregated, and be an aid to relocation. The women think mainly in terms of the difficulties and sorrows of still another separation of relatives and friends.

Rivers, Arizona

CONCLUSION ON THE QUESTION OF SEGREGATION.

I have interviewed fifty two persons on the question asking what they think about segregation, its effect and whether is it necessary or not. The details of answers are on separate pages. Their answers are different according to their experiences, circumstances whether they have direct relations or not. However in general more Niseis think it is necessary to segregate and effect will be good, though those who are affected may think otherwise. Older Nisei express their sympathy toward those who are affected.

Issei in general feel sorry for those who will be segregated. Their opinions are divided on its effect and its necessity or not. Some believe it is necessary and some do not. Some of them think as loyalty question is asked and as their stand is known it is proper to separate accordingly. Some believe it will help to clarify public opinion if segregation is done. Some believe W.R.A. can carry out its policy much better if they are separated. On the other hand there are many who think as they are peaceful and do not disturb the community so it may not be necessary to segregate. Many women may come to this group, while men may think more with reasoning and women with sympathy.

Nisei's mind is working with public opinions with direct influences so their answers are more in the same line except those who are directly concerned with segregation. Niseis in general do not feel so sorry as segregees selected their own courses; while Issei are sorry for such circumstances.

Seichi Oguchi
Research Assistant
August 19, 1943

August 19, 1942

Gila River
**WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION**

NOTES ON CHANGES OF ANSWERS TO
QUESTION 28 OF THE ARMY QUESTIONNAIRE.

Cca. 25, 1943

E. J. ...
(180)

These notes are based upon an analysis of letters from evacuees requesting permission to change their answers from 'no' to 'yes' on Question Number 28 of the army questionnaire. These letters were all written by citizens. Of the aliens registered, only 1 gave a negative reply and only 4 gave no reply. Hence the problem of change of answers lies only in the citizens group.

A total of 9617 people registered in the Gila River Project. Of these 4982 were citizens, 2588 males and 2394 females. A total of 1173 or 23.5% negative replies were recorded. Of these negative replies a large majority were from males, 951 or 36.7% of the males answered 'no', whereas only 252 or 10.5% of the females gave a negative answer.

Since registration some hundreds applied for permission to change answers. The total of applications for change is not given here because final results are not yet available. Some changed during registration time. Another group changed after registration and before July 15. Since then still others have been given segregation interviews or segregation interviews with letters. This report deals only with the second group, those ~~who~~ who wrote requesting to change between April 1st and July 15th.

The number of those on record as requesting change between those dates is 186. Of these letters, 103 are available for analysis. The intention of this report is to show numerically the reasons given for the original answer 'no' and the reason given for changing the answer. The procedure was to make a count of each of the reasons for giving both original answer and for change. Since this count was made many other letters have come in but a careful examination shows no significant difference so that the original 103 letters can be taken as being an adequate sample of all such letters.

In the 103 letters 5 gave no reasons for the original answer, 5 people answered Question Number 27 only in the negative, 2 people answered Question Number 28 only in the negative, 10 people answered Question Number 28 in the negative because they were told by the army personnel that the answers to both Number 27 and Number 28 must be same.

The reasons given for the original answer had varying phraseology but they have been classified into 5 main groups.

In most letters more than one reason was given for the original answer so that the total of reasons given does not correspond to the number of letters.

Reasons given for original answer.

I.	Resentment.	107
II.	Group influence.	42
III.	Confused and puzzled.	19
IV.	Desire to stay with kin.	12
V.	Did not want to go to war	10

The resentments named were evacuation, undemocratic treatment, race discrimination, denial at right to bear arms, discharge from the army, loss of constitutional right, (or similar reason), hardships in camp, threats of deportation, internment of father, plans for future ruined, or financial loss.

Group influence can be itemized as group influence simply stated, fear of consequences, persuasion or rumor.

Of those confused and puzzled some made that statement simply, others said they did not understand.

Those who wanted to stay with their kin or did not want to go to war need no further classification.

The Dies Committee and The Native Sons of the Golden West received mention more than once.

Reason given for asking change.

I.	Loyalty to United States.	89
II.	Desire to help the country.	15
III.	Realization <u>now</u> that the government is foing its best for evacuees.	13
IV.	Necessity for evacuation realized.	8
V.	Concern for the future.	5
VI.	Belief in democratic ideals.	3
VII.	Execution of United States pilots by the Japanese.	1
VIII.	Realization that others exerted undue influence.	1

Under the term loyalty to the United States were classified such words as loyalty, land of birth, land of up-bringing, conscience, land of education, "don't want to be a traitor", allegiance, now willing to serve in the army, duty as a

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citizen, "funny feeling" at answering 'no', the Project Attorneys' letter stating that 'no' answer was disloyalty.

Under the term desire to help the country the man power shortage was sometimes mentioned. Under the heading concern for the future, children were sometimes mentioned, other times the family as a whole.

A few remarks concerning the sincerity of the letters may not be out of place. This can be judged only by the knowledge of the persons who wrote them or by the internal contents of the letter themselves. As for the first, only a small percentage were known well enough to form any valid judgement. It can only be given an impression that the majority of those known personally wrote letters which were sincere but that an appreciable minority wrote letters couched in terms which they thought would be acceptable to the administration.

An examination of the letters themselves give the impression that some were stereotyped and statements were made which, it was believed, would produce the desired result. In some cases the help of a Caucasian or a well educated evacuee was asked to compose an acceptable letter. Others very definitely are sufficiently original or unique to suggest their sincerity. Statistically, it is impossible to draw the line.

The outstanding reasons for the original 'no' answer were resentment and group influence. The outstanding reason for asking a change was the predominance of loyalty in spite of resentment. It should be noted that among the reasons for the original answer "loyalty to Japan" might appear in the reasons of those who did not change their answers.

This analysis may give some slight index of the resentments and other emotional reactions which evacuation caused. These resentments still exist to some degree. Presumably changes of answers indicate changes in attitudes: modification of resentments, emergence of other attitudes and consequent modifications of total attitudes on the project.

A further report on this topic is planned when all of those originally answering 'no' have made a final decision one way or another.

Copies of 16 letters are appended, chosen as being samples of the 103 upon which this analysis was based.

Dear Sir,

This letter which I have written concerns the questionnaire which I filled out sometime ago.

Being a high school student who just turned eighteen years of age, I didn't think enough of the future when I answered no to the two questions concerning loyalty. Now I regret that I answered no to questions number 27 and 28.

The reason why I wrote no to these two questions was due to this evacuation. It made me angry.

Before evacuation, I was enjoying a pleasant life with hundreds of my Caucasian Friends during the first sixteen years of my life in Los Angeles. I went to school with them, played together with them, and worked at many swell Caucasian homes as a gardener over the weekend. Many of them were like brothers and sisters to me. To give you the real facts, I was really patriotic then. At Los Angeles High School which I attended we had a booth where students sold defense bonds and stamps. Now and then I bought them with whatever spare money I had. Not only that, but also essays on "Americanism" which I still have somewhere in my old notebooks.

When we were evacuated from Los Angeles on the twenty-ninth of April, 1942, I was really angry. I said to myself, why do we have to go into a camp? We're American citizens, and we got as much rights as any other American. When I left all my friends behind with the feeling that we might never see each other again until for the duration of the war to give up my home, and a good sound education to live in a camp surrounded by bobbed wire, I lost fight.

This evacuation made many of the Nisei's that is, Americans of Japanese Ancestry, born and educated in the United States, and not in Japan, feel the same way I felt.

To tell the truth, if I were asked to answer question 27 and 28 while I was back in my hometown, I would have, without hesitation answered "yes". I'm sure that dozens of other Nisei's would have also.

When I answered "No" to questions 27 and 28 that meant that I was loyal to Japan. Well, to tell you the truth, I never was. I don't know what made me answer no, but I guess it was because of my anger toward evacuation of us Japanese Americans.

But now I'm beginning to realize that the evacuation of all Japanese, whether citizens of the United States or not, was for the safety of the U.S. as well as for the safety of ourselves, and I truthfully admit that I was wrong in some ways of being angry toward this evacuation movement

Being an American citizen, born, and educated in the United States, nothing will please me more than to have my answer changed from "no" to "yes" for questions number 27 and 28 of the questionnaire.

I'd rather be under the Stars and Stripes any day.

Yours truly,

Age 17 Sex; Male Residence in Japan 3-1937--10-1937

Ages during residence in Japan 12 yrs.

Rivers, Ariz.
June 15, 1943

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to ask you to change my answers to the last two questions of the recent registration changed to yes.

Although I put no to the loyalty questions I have never been disloyal to the United States. I can assure you that I have never been loyal to the emperor of Japan. How can I be, when I have never been there or been brought up to think in their way. I have often wondered myself, why I put no. Which shows how confused I was at that time. But now after thinking it over thoroughly, I know that I made a big mistake. I was confused during those weeks, and in addition, hearing false rumors and reading that some people were trying hard to take away our citizenship and send us all to Japan after the war, made me lose faith in America and influenced me to write no. Also, at that time because I was confused, it was strongly in my mind that the government had no right to put me, a loyal citizen of America, into a camp, for what I thought was no good reason at all.

As you can see on my registration sheet, my reading and writing of Japanese is poor, and I can speak Japanese only fairly. I know only what I have heard from my friends and the very little which I learned at the Japanese schools about Japan.

The recent registration has always been on my mind. I cannot explain the funny feeling inside of me as I asked to have no written on those questions. The queer feeling still has not gone away, and I am hoping that you will change my answers for me so that I can feel free to say that I am a loyal citizen of United States again.

Now that I have had plenty of time to think, I can see that we all had to be evacuated before the disloyal could do any harm to the United States, and also for our own safety. As a loyal citizen of U. S., I left a good job and sacrificed a bright future and came to camp as obediently as I knew how.

I was born and raised in California and have never been to any other country, even for a visit. In fact, I had never been out of California until I came to Gila. So when I read in the newspapers that California does not want us anymore, it makes me wonder. In the schools, I learned the American way of thinking and living. And since

this is America, I am hoping that the people who have forgotten democracy will remember it and forget race prejudice and take us back as one of them, loyal citizens of America.

As I read the newspapers before the registration; it seemed to me that some of the American people had forgotten Democracy. Democracy, the very thing for which we are fighting this war today. But I know now that the democratic ideals were not forgotten by most Americans. I think it is very easy to forget yourself and your ideals during times of excitement and great confusion, but I am sure that the people who have forgotten for a while will remember it in time. Just as I forgot that I was a citizen of United States and my duty to my country.

It warms my heart to read about the American people who have no race prejudice. When I read articles about or by these persons, it makes me very happy and glad that I was born in America, the land of the free.

Another thing that seems democratic to me is the W.R.A. helping the loyal to go out and prove that the Japanese American citizens are loyal to the United States, the land of their birth. To me, it seems that the government and the people are giving us more and more better chances. Together with the treatment which we get inside of camp shows that the U. S. is democratic; just as we learned in the schools.

I have seen that America is still a democracy and my faith in America and democracy is renewed. That is why I want my answer changed to yes. So that I can again be classed a loyal citizen of America because I am a loyal citizen of America and America only. As long as I live; I will never be a traitor to my country, the United States of America, the land of the free, where I was born and raised.

I hope that I have been able to prove ~~that I have been~~ ~~able to prove~~ that I have been a loyal citizen of America and always will be. I am very sorry that it took me until now to write this letter. I hope that I am not too late in realizing what America means to me. Will you please give me this chance to change my answer?

Sincerely,

Age: 19, Female, No residence in Japan.

To The Project
Director or whom it may Concern

I would like to request to have my status of the registration changed from the negative to the affirmative for the question number twenty seven and twenty eitht. During the time of the registration I, as many others, was confused and all excited due to the pressure group and the agitators. At that time I did not fully realize what it will mean to answer these questions in the negative form. I regret now, afterfully realizing what it really means to be a loyal citizen.

When I went down to register I spoketo the sergeant and asked him to let me answer the loyalty question yes and the twenty seventh one no for the time, but he said that I had to answer both in the affirmative or both in the negative. I found out lately what the question twenty seven meant. My interpretation forthe question twenty seven was in general and not in the way which the others had meant it. I regret very much now that I did not realize the importance and what I would have to face in the future by answering them both no. I, not only will have to face hardships but will be regarded as a dangerous character which I feel that I am not. I feel that I have made a great mistake and wish that my status would be changed soon.

Prior to evacuation our family was kicked around like dogs and animals which I had in my mind which was another reason which made me feel in some respect bitter. We were operating a berry farm in San Gabriel, California on a leased land. After the oubreak of the war we had to face many difficult situations. One incident was buying gasoline for my automobile. In order to purchase any gasoline we were asked to show our birth certificates. All Japanese banking accounts regardless of whether you were an American citizen or not your accounts were frozen. You had to go directly to the bank to draw any money out. In order to draw any of your money out you were required to make a statement or sign an affidavit to receive any cash from your own account.

On the fifth of March of 1942 the land in which we lived on was soldto the Southern California Broadcasting Co. a small company who wanted to erect a radio tower on the newly bought land.

I believe that you are allowed a minimum of thirty days to move out but this company sent out equipment and materials right away and ordered us out immediately. For berry crop that year was exceedingly good and we asked them to let us harvest our crop. But they told us to get right out and would not let us do anything about our crop. As I can see their first plan was to take care of the berry crop first then erect their tower. I couldn't stand for this and went down to the Federal Reserve Bank to get their advice. All they could do for me was to advise me to get my own lawyer and fight the case out in court as they were not as yet given any authority to take legal action in court. In the meantime we had to move our house from the land into another place and by that time they had already brought out a tractor and a bulldozer and started to plow in all the crop which we had put our full effort in to make a good crop.

I went to a friend of mine who was practicing law in Los Angeles and asked him to take over the case for me. I presented him my story and he offered to take action for me. As time went by evacuation took place and I had to leave home and enter the assembly center. The attorney encouraged me and told me not to worry about the case as he would take care of it. He also told me that he would take action immediately and will bring it up in court within thirty days. During my stay in the assembly center I wrote to him several times and asked him how the case was coming along. But I had no reply. He had promised me that the trial would take place in thirty days but not a sign of trial was seen. Thirty days sixty days passed and we had no response from our attorney. In the meantime we were transferred to this project. Still no response.

Still not giving up I wrote to this attorney but got no response as yet. All I could bear in mind was that if you are a race of people such as we Japanese are you haven't a chance in the world to be a good loyal American citizen. While our anger, if you call it, hasn't vanished this compulsory registration came by and more or less put us on a spot. Agitation here and there and the pressure group got all over me and therefore I couldn't put a negative and an affirmative answer down so I put both answer no.

As I have been able and fortunate enough to work with many Caucasian people who are really sincere and friendly, different from the few people whom I had to fight against on the outside I realize that this country is not full of untruthful and unfaithful people.

Age 21 Male

April 24, 1943

Dear Sir;

I am one of those that answered "No" to both questions No. 27 and No. 28 in the last War Department's registration of United States Citizens of Japanese Ancestry.

I now urgently desire to have both questions No 27 and No. 28 changed to "Yes".

I wish to state the following facts to support my request:

At the time of the registration, I answered "No" to No. 27 and "Yes" to No. 28 on the questionnaire. A few days later, I was notified to see Captain Thompson in his office. I appeared before Corporal Welling, who was assisting Captain Thompson. He asked me whether I wish to change my negative answer on question No. 27, and I told him that I wish to leave both questions as I had originally answered them. He argued that, the questions No. 27 and No. 28 were loyalty questions and of the same nature and cannot be answered in two different ways. He insisted that if I answered "No" to question No. 27, my answer to question No. 28 must necessarily be "No" and he changed my answer of "Yes" on question No. 28 to "No" to make No. 27 and No. 28 to read the same. He made me initial the change stating that there was no other alternative.

Please let me state my reasons for answering "No" to question No. 27.

I am a citizen of the United States. However, upon the outbreak of the war with Japan, I was singled out, with other United States citizens of Japanese ancestry, then residing along the Pacific Coast. My rights and privileges, as guaranteed to me under the Constitution of the United States, were suspended. Against my wishes, I was forced to evacuate my home and forced to live in government camps.

In addition, my father, who had been in this country since 1905 and had done much as one of the pioneers in the development of the vegetable industry in the Santa Maria Valley, was taken into custody as a "dangerous enemy alien" and has been interned as such at Camp Livingston, Louisiana. He had done nothing harmful to the cause of this country. On the contrary, he had always been a man of public service and had done more than his share for the welfare of his

community. Also, my oldest brother, who was innocent of any wrong doing, was taken into custody and was detained at the Federal Detention Camp at Bismarck, North Dakota for about six months. He was released on parole in August, 1942.

With all these turn of depressing events befalling upon me, I felt, more or less, resentful. There seemed nothing for me to fight for, also when I was being treated more like an enemy alien than a loyal citizen of this country.

However, when my father petitioned to come to see my sister-in-law, who was seriously sick, the authorities at Camp Livingston permitted him to do so, and when he asked for a week's extension of his stay here, it was granted. When he again petitioned to come here to see her in a critical condition, they again granted him to do so. When he asked for a week's extension of his stay here to attend her funeral services, it was again granted. He told us while he was here, how fairly he and his fellow internees are treated.

Now, I have come to realize that the government has been fair and sincere in its dealings with us evacuees. My resentment that I first felt when I was put in camp had vanished and I am now desirous of doing my part as a loyal citizen of the United States.

I will appreciate your kind assistance in this matter.

Thanking you, I remain.

Respectfully yours

Age: 20, Male, Residence in Japan 1936-1936, 1934-1934.
Ages during residence in Japan 12-12 yrs.
14-14 yrs.

June 3, 1943

Dear Sir:

The undersigned hereby requests the opportunity for a change in answers to questions 27 and 28 in the Army questionnaire given to citizens of Japanese Ancestry.

The reasons for my change in attitude are as follows:

Up to the time of registration which took place last February, I had felt, like many others of my race, that we had been turned down and abandoned by our government, and our rights and liberties as U.S. citizens had been deprived without justification.

The only recourse under the then existing circumstance was to make arrangements for expatriation to Japan. Such being my intention, I could not with propriety answer "Yes" to questions 27 and 28.

But now I have come to the realization the Government's motive in requiring an affirmative answer to the questions involved, is not only for the purpose of demanding loyalty in the armed forces but to assist the evacuees in re-establishing themselves to normal lives.

I am therefore, permanently withdrawing my intention of expatriation and desire instead, to amend the copy of the questionnaire I filed, so that both answers to questions 27 and 28 will read "Yes".

Your favorable consideration of my request will be sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Age: 26, Male, No residence in Japan.

June 23, 1943

Mr. _____
Project Director
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Sir

When war broke out, Axis alien and American Japanese got big shock, and new laws, new rules follow that terrible shock to restrict us each day. We American Japanese had to cooperate and at last evacuation. First alien Japanese second, American Japanese, third Germans, fourth, Italians, we cooperate with army and government and went to W.R.S. center. Neither Germans nor Italians, only alien Japanese and American citizen of Japanese, here in this camp with out civil right of any kind except to volunteer for army, so I opposed at once to that registration and bside I had some other reason for No. 27.

No. 27

I like aviation very much, so 1939 I took up flying as much as my pocket permitted, later that year I tried to get in U.S. air corp, but find out they donat want American Japanese (they still shut us out) and now gâvernment take away my civil right and ask me to join army to give my life. That is not fair.

No. 28

I answered "yes" on No. 28 question. A few days later call come so I went, then he (corporal) advise to me to put on "yes" on No. 27 question but I did not give ear to him for above reasons, he said something like this "No. 27 and No. 28 answers should be same" so I asked hem "why they got two questions, why not combine to one question?" Then he start talk to me pretty long, but I cannot get nothing out from his talk because of my English knowledge and by that time I was getting kind of excited because know how to talk to and cannot get word out from my mouth that makes me more excited so I asked hem put down "no" "if that answers of both question had to be same answer" so put down "no" on No. 28 too.

Then you may aske me why I answer "yes" on No. 28.

I went to Japan couple of time. First time I was young so any way no trouble. When second time I went to Japan, I was being followed lot of time I do not know why, they stop me once in whilâ and asked me where I stay, where I am going, for what reason etc.

This thing happened to me in big city.

Once this city, suppose to be fortified zone, I was carrying Kodak in that zone but I didn't take any picture, just carried around because I was going through that city. I had Kodak in my pocket all timesomehow they question me and find out I got Kodak, they start question me more and after two hours took me to head-quarter for more question, search my suit case inside out and I had to take my clothes off to examine, film from my Kodak was taken out for develop and was asked all kind of question, but they find out nothing but was ordinary traveler then they release me after ten hours, I wondered if they treat all foreigners like this. I never did like there politics or policy. As long as I stay in U.S. I hope this government never treat us like that.

Now about three or four months pass away since we registered and had time for quiet thinking which help me to cool off. At that time I was influenced by mob psychology I believed, never did think deep or future

Now I begin to see future ahead of us, its getting different, still people are outside some of them try not to treat us good, especially west coast states and Dies Committee, they publish in news paper untrue lies. But government and W.T. A. is different they know we made great sacrifice on economical and mental blow through evacuation so they try to correct it for us. At that time of registration I never saw this out but now I've realize fact, its time to correct my fault if I don't correct now, I get to throw into hand of those people telling the lies. I like to get back on right track, and take road to freedom and equality then in future those narrow minded people will wake up and look up again. Up to now with great unequal handicap as American Japanese I always cooperated with government ^{whether} it was right or wrong. Why not cooperate with government, and I like to cooperate as long as the government treat us fair. I think, now government is giving back our right by resettlement inland, I will do my duty as a citizen.

This is my reasons to change "no" to "yes" on question No. 27 and question No. 28 and wish I get fair judgement.

Very truly yours,

Age 28 Sex: Male. Residence in Japan 1917-1920
1921-1931

Ages during residence in Japan 3-6 yrs.
6-17 yrs.

July 15, 1943

Mr. _____
Assistant Project Director
Gila River W.R.A.
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr.

When I registered for the WAAC I have answered no for those two questions which I believed my fiance Minoru Okamoto has answered no for his questionnaire and thinking I must have the same answer in order to be together again. He was taken away very suddenly to Leupp Relocation Center on February 16th which I thought was just on account of he has answered no.

Suddenly on July 6th my fiance was released from Leupp to Poston Relocation Center and I have learned that his answer for the questionnaire were yes.

I realized I have made a great mistake and I would like to change my answer to yes immediately.

We are getting married on July 23rd and I must transfer to Poston Relocation Center by July 26th in order to go with my husband.

At this time I plead for your utmost consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Sex: Female

April 23, 1943

Dear Sir:

I am one of the ~~fellows~~ who answered both negative on 27th and 28th question. But now I have thought things over and would like to change that answer to affirmative if possible.

At the time of registration I didn't do much thinking of answering on the affirmative side. Because I was just thinking about the past, when we had to sacrifice everything and came here without an argument. Some things like going for an outside employment and lead a free life again seemed very doubtful--So when the registration came up I just didn't have anything to look forward to.

But now I look things differently. Since I am an American citizen I would like to go out for outside employment like the rest of my friends. I would appreciate very much if you could change my negative answer to affirmative.

Yours truly,

Age: 22 Sex: Male, Residence in Japan 1939-1940
Ages during residence in Japan 19-20yrs.

May 28, 1943

Leave Officer
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Sir:

I am directing this application to you with the hope that I may be permitted to change my answers given to both question No. 27 and No. 28 DSS Form 304A, in recent Military registration conducted here, and in support of this application may I be permitted to state the following facts:

I consider the answer given by me on both question No. 27 and No. 28 both of which are in the negative, were a mistake and the result of a ill-considered thinking.

In my true state of mind now, after clear thinking from the correct prospective with all the facts of the situation, I now see that the answers so given by me should have been in the affirmative. I believe this to be so, not because of the benefits I may reap, but because I fear I have done a grave injustice to myself and my country, and I, therefore, desire to change the answers so given by me earlier so I can amend my error and live up to what a true American should be. I am at present working in the camouflage net factory doing my utmost to right the wrong I have committed.

May I, therefore, request your good office to permit me to change the answers on both question No. 27, and No. 28, to "YES" for both.

Yours very truly,

Age: 19 Sex: Male

Rivers Arizona
June 18, 1943

Dear Mr. _____.

This is a letter of request for a change of the loyalty question No. 28 from "No" to "Yes".

During the period of Army Registration, my mind was in such a state of confusion, I was not sure of what I was doing. There was a rumor going around that Isseis and Niseis would be separated if the Niseis should answer "Yes." Since my husband is an Issei and I am a Nisei, naturally I did not wish to be separated from him.

Since I registered first, because my husband was in the group of over 38, I was not sure of how to answer. I wanted write "Yes" for that was the way I felt, but not wishing to be separated from my husband, I confided with the Sargent. He also felt that because my husband was an Issei and if we did not wish to be separated that I should write "no". If I had known that my husband would have done so, for I have never done anything or felt in any way against this country in which I was born.

I hope that you will grant me my request of change from "no" to "yes", for my conscience has been bothering me ever since the big mistake I made in writing "no".

Yours truly,

Age: 32 Sex: Female Residence in Japan 1920-1928
1940-1940
Ages during residence in Japan:
10-18yrs.
30-30yrs.

June 14, 1943

Dear Mr. _____

I am reconsidering my negative answers to the loyalty questions of the draft survey which was made during the early part of 1943. I realize now that, at that time, I made a hasty and erroneous decision. You would realize, if you were in my shoes at that time, how I had lost faith in my country--being a citizen and placed behind barbed wire fences against my will. No one knew what the future held in store for the evacuated Japanese-Americans, but when I went to the Assembly Center I expected to be confined behind barbed wire fences for the duration of the war. I had heard of Relocation Centers, but then, they were just places where we would be "kept" for the duration of the war.

I realize now--I hope sincerely that it's not too late--how erroneous my hasty and unfounded judgment had been. But, being in that frame of mind--never expecting to leave this camp for the duration of the war--you can see why my answer was negative when I was asked whether or not I was willing to serve my country. I really felt that my country had been taken away from me and that I was no longer wanted. Then, how could I possibly serve my country when I was in that mental attitude?

I never had the slightest idea--never dreamed--that Relocation Centers were just temporary homes for us until we found some way of livelihood outside the prohibited areas. Thank God! I have regained faith in my country! And, with that redemption came a greater appreciation and love for my beloved United States. The fact alone that I am able even to reconsider my judgment--that is true democracy!

I wanted to leave the answers blank, but I was forced to make a decision on the spot. Is it too late, Mr. Bennett, to right a hideous error? We are all human, and, being such, are bound to make mistakes--many of them. Tell me it's not too late to be a "good American!"

Very cordially and gratefully,

Age: 22 Male, Residence in Japan 1934-1941
Ages during residence in Japan 15-22yrs.

Rivers, Arizona
June 11, 1943

Your Honor:

Would you kindly change the answer question No. 27 and 28 to "Yes" from "No" because of my clear conscience. I was very proud of American Citizen, and I had many kinds of rights just like any other American Citizen according to Constitution. But Western Defense Command General Dewitt did not treat me like American Citizen because I have Japanese ancestry and, We had to evacuate just like foreign Citizen. So I broke my heart and hope. I didn't want to do anything. Therefore I thought no use to put "Yes" on Questionnaire But I had long period to think over and finally I decided to loyal to United State of America from bottom of my heart. Because I was born here and educated here. I had Japanese education So people say can't trust Japan educated American Citizen But It does not fit me in circumstances. No matter how people say no body change my mind.

I just proud of American Citizen, specially "Democracy" Not a fascism, militarism or Imperialism.

If you kindly take care of me I would appreciate it very much.

Very truly yours

25 age, Male, Residence in Japan--1927-1936,
Age during residence in Japan 11-20 yrs.

Rivers, Ariz.

June 18, 1943

Dear Sir:

To readjust my decision concerning the military questionnaire I will begin from the very beginning.

In this modern world before I was removed to a camp I lived at a farm house. We couldn't afford electricity. Cooking and lighting system was all done by kerosene fuel.

When Pearl Harbor was bombed, I was out in the field picking beets. When the news was released a old friend "Chino", brought the news to us. I couldn't believe him. I'll never forget that instance. First word he said was, "Hi! George, Hows the price on those beets?" Then he asked me, "Do you think Japan is going to attack America?" I said, "No never---Chino, you know, in Japanese language Pacific Ocean means a great Peace Ocean." No matter how I figure, Japan will not attack America." Then he told me, "Japan attacked Hawaii." I said, "Awh, you big liar, Japan will never attack America." But he keep telling me that soldiers being called to their stations and he heard it over the radio every 10 minutes. He asked me to go with him to listen to his radio. However, I didn't go.

After I finished bunching beets, I went home and tuned the car radio. As I listened, the broadcast gave special announcement, at first, I thought it was true after-all. But deep in my heart I couldn't believe it. I thought it was a drill to strain the soldiers.

Since that time, there was many rumors that we were going to be sent to concentration camp. This too I believed it a fake. But on May 7, 43 there was notice of evacuation.

When we left that morning of May 7, kindly, the neighbor helped us in every way possible. We cried. I tried to hold back the tears but it kept coming out, even the dog we left seemed to know what we were up to.

This really pulled the hope out of me. Born here and educated to every extent I believe in United States.

During the registration there was rumors and exterior force from these conditions the answers were "no".

Last week block manager came around and told us to think it over. So I did. I also looked back at the Gila News I been saving. The issue of Feb. 18 showed Attorney Terry's opinion that a negative answers without repatriation request will be a traitor to the United States. I.O.U.S. my education and living standard. I will not be a traitor to the United States.

Respectfully yours,

P.S.

Another reason I am going to change to "Yes" is in near future I want to leave the camp. Right now I have to prepare myself, during the High School days I didn't study hard enough.

Age 20 Sex: Male

Rivers, Ariz.
June 13, 1943

Dear Sir;

I am writing this letter because I would like to change my answer to the recent army registration.

I would like to state my reason for answering No to the 27th & 28th Question on the questionnaire, and why I would like to change it to yes.

I was supposed to be inducted into United States Army somewhere around May, 1941. But due to my fathers illness, I was deferred for 6 month time. But even after the 6 month time was over, my father was still in bad condition and I had 2 sister to support, and yet I wanted to go and do my share for Uncle Sam, but I was deferred again. I was classified 3A. At that time I promised my Local Board that whenever United States should join the war with any country, I'm willing to leave everything behind and do my share for Uncle Sam.

Then on Dec. 7th 1941 Jap attack on Pearl Harbor. After the Jap Attack, I was all prepared to get called in to do my share, but I was never called. Not only that, some of my friends were even discharged from Armed Forces.

Then came the Evacuation. At the time of Evacuation. My father had regain his health and everything was O.K. And at that time I was still classified 3A so I thought I could have chance to join the army before I evacuate. Because I wanted to do my share and serve Uncle Sam as American Citizen. So few weeks before evacuation got under way, I went to my draft board which is located in Wilmington Calif. to find out how soon I would be called in. But they said they are not taking any Japanese in the army at that time. And they told me to go into Assembly Center with rest of my family and whenever they are ready to call me, the Local Board would notifie me. So I went to Tulare Assembly Center with my family. At Tulare I heard people saying that we might be able to join the army again so I was again waiting to get called. But nothing took place then.

After we came to Gila the new army registration started. Few weeks before registration started, I recieved my reclassification from 3A to 4C, which I figured classification 4C is Enemy Alien classification. And I could not understand why I was classified as

Enemy Alien when I am a royal citizen of United States. Thats the only citizen I have.

About the Evacuation. Until about year before Evacuation, we had the toughest time making our living with my fathers illness and he couldn't work and we had our own farm. Everything we planted and did turn out to be bad. So at the age of 18 I had to quit school and support my folks and sisters. And just about time of Evacuation we were just starting to get along with our living then came the Evacuation. So Evacuating really hurt our feeling. But as the Army said rather General Dewitt said that all the Royal American of Japanese Ancestry should evacuate from west coast if we are loyal to United States. So we evacuated with smile. But I couldn't understand why we had to go in camp, when we the young boys could join the army and help win the war and our parents could help by producing vegetable which our country need the most. And back in Calif. The Native Son of Golden West trying to take our citizenship away and trying to deport us all back to Japan after the war. And the Dies Committee trying all they can to do the same with all kinds of false statement. And at the time of registration, I thought that we should be drafted according to our first draft registration instead of registering all over again. So I couldn't understand why we have to register over again when we have register once already. So the Evacuation, 4C classification, Dies Committee, Native Son of Golden West trying to do all that and misunderstanding of registration made me put no to question 27th and 28th.

I have been to Japan quite sometime. But I did not go because I wanted to go, I was sent there by my parent. I have no citizenship in Japan. I have drop my citizenship in Japan because I knew United States is the place for me to live and stay as long as I live. So American Citizen is the only one I have and I care to have. When I came back from Japan I was only kid of 13, so I do not know anything about Japan and I never wanted to go back there again never _____.

When I settled down to think about the registration and my future. Not only my own future, but the future of rest of my family which has decided to make United States their home as long as they live. And what would happen if I loose my only citizenship I will be man without country. It was too late but I found out I have made

the most important mistake of my lifetime. And the article Project Attorney Terry wrote about the registration that all the people that answered No to 27th & 28th question is a traitor. And I never want to be a traitor and I can't be a traitor to my own country.

Some of the people were called twice to change their answer and most of them found out that they have made the same mistake I have made so they have changed. But some of the people didn't get the second call and I'm one of them so I'm asking for another chance to change it.

Whenever Uncle Sam call me for service, I'm willing to do my share as Royal American citizen at anytime. Even though Uncle Sam doesn't call me for War from I could help our country win the war and crash the Axis by working on home front by doing agricultural work which I'm best fitted and experience.

I can not write good English because I've quit school early. But what I have stated in this letter is the feeling which I have in bottom of my heart. So I'll be very happy again if I'll be able to change my answer to yes.

Sincerely

Age 24, Male, Residence in Japan 1919-1930
Age during residence in Japan 2-13 yrs.